Power projects with foreign investment in the Karnataka

2740. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd February, 1994 that five major power projects involving overseas private investment are to be set up in Karnataka and if so whether the Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the participating overseas companies;

(b) what is the status of the proposed 1000 MW thermal project at Mangalore to be set up with the assistance from Cogentrix of USA;

(c) whether any hydel project in Almatti-Narayanpur-Thermankal in Karnataka is under consideration and if so the generation capacity of the proposed project; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure clearance of the proposals, both at the ministry level and at the Central Electricity Authority level, so that there are no cost overruns due to delayed implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Government of Karnataka and M/s Cogentrix Inc., USA on 30.7.1992. The promoters are pursuing various clearances/inputs required for the project.

(c) Yes Sir. The proposed capacity is 600 MW in Phase-I and 360 MW in Phase-II.

(d) Every effort is made to ensure expeditious clearance of Private Power Projects.

Precautionary measures by NREB to prevent grid collapse

2741. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Region Electricity Board (NREB) has evolved any precautionary measures to prevent the Grid collapse and blackouts in the northern region of the kind that took place during last summer;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether NREB has worked out any bilateral arrangements with other Electricity Boards; if so, what are the details hereof;

(d) what has been the peak demand of northern region as compared to the current generating capacity in the region;

(e) what measures Government propose to take to meet the shortage during the coming summer months;

(f) what is the extent of theft of electricity in NREB; the details of loss suffered during each of the last three years; and

(g) what steps Government have taken to check the theft of electricity in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Adequate redundancy needs to be built into the transmssion network to safeguard against probable contingencies. This is being attempted, consistent with resource availability. At present, transmission planning is restricted to cater to single contingency. In addition, automatic underfrequency load shedding/islanding schemes have become operational and are being promoted.